

Main Arsenal Building, to be Used for Machine Department

In the Literary World

Something About Books, the Men Who Write Books, and Other Matters

Concerning the Literary Profession ND words for editors have been | we realize the fundamental emotions of editor's case." It may be that Leslie Stephen's touching account David Harums and Virginians and other

In the midst of our present life, when columns of this magazine and elsewhere it has been said, and we think proven, that Iroquois theaters, and our own small gone so far as to credit him with good intentions, decent manners and a rough nomutely, persistently to preserve it, through false peace, due solely to the animal spirits | church and Christmas, social service and partly on a co-educational and partly an "thinking it all over." The craving to "beof a few happy contributors, meaning no lieve" manifests itself also, though in what far more serious than amusement in the circulation of twenty-six books that aggreof the "imperfect affinities" described by gate nearly seven million copies. Charles Lamb. There are periodicals professedly founded on mutual love, but they

The Age of Romance.

"Talking of novels," said a young jourof Ethel. I dropped in at my sister's yesterday and found Ethel-who is twelvehinks that would be too much to expect of | with her eyes red and swollen. I didn't of family discipline, but presently her mother turned to the child.

"'Ethel, she said, 'I really can't let you read "John Halifax" any longer, or you will have no eyes left.' And Ethel lifted her red eyelids and stammered out, pleadingly, 'Oh, please let me, mamma! I'm through the crying part now, truly I am! A ripple of laughter ran round the group

and then confessions began. One woman a physician of high standing, acknowledged that when she was ten she had cried herself to sleep over the death of Uncas in "The Last of the Mohicans." Another, a brilliant society woman, said

that she took out a certain old-fashioned Sunday-school book once a month regularly for a year for the exquisite sorrow of weeping over its heroine's pious death. Scottish Chiefs," "The Old Curiosity Shop," "Little Women" and "Evangeline

had, it appeared, each claimed its quota of tears; and when one woman declared that she "wouldn't not have cried for anything." the sentiment met with unanimous though merry acceptance. Although tear-compell ing fiction was not to be recommended in unlimited quantities, yet the "sweet sorrow" of those blurred pages of childhood was remembered tenderly by these women duties that dimmed the power of romance. There are two sides to the question, of course-there always are-when there are not more. To become so absorbed in the sorrows and fortitude of some beautiful and unfortunate heroine that one forgets to set the table or darn the stockings has not been

influence of these same heroines that the child, unskilled as yet in reading the secrets of the lives in her every-day world, begins crudely enough, but honestly, to build her ideals of courage, sweetness and patience. tury curriculum can contain all the courses in the school of life, and many a child has upon any pay roll. The child does not speak of her often, but in her thoughts she is honored with capitals. She is She-her

Mr. Joseph Conrad.

unreasonable. No doubt he had ten letters blaming him for an error in a day of the week to one that caught him in a glar- story, "Nostromo," is South ing misinterpretation of a man's whole work. No doubt he was deluged with complaints to the effect that Brown received | born in southern Poland and lived there two columns, and Jones, incomparably the greater, only one, while Smith, the ineffapeerless, was actually left out altogether. Nevertheless, no work of that at the bombardment of Caracas; and when class was ever done in a sluggard's heaven | he joined the English mercantile marine at acquisence, and had it not been for the | twenty-one he knew not one word of Engsense a lively, captious and watchful few even Mr. Stephen would have sometimes thus described by T. P.'s Weekly:

ose a chance to prick an editor or write a ing schooner from boy to able seaman, watchman in Sydney harbor to mate of a Melville, Darwin, Renan, Taine, Daudet, Dickens, Addison, Tennyson, Miss Braddon, nearly first of all the English Bible that awakens, and whole shelves of his library was given him by a colporteur in Ratcliff | are, as it were, like fair maidens who smiled his ship was on fire (as we may read in passed away. Under different circum-Youth), and he saw the East for the first sought for gold up Malay rivers in canoes; he commanded wool schooners on the coast | their charms. He meets them as the everthe procession with 727,000. All the well- of Australia; he was in charge of steambroke down. At a railway bookstall in Switzerland where he was making a 'cure he saw the small yellow covers of a once matter in the magazines, where month after | famous series of English short stores. The month by the alluring aid of the miniature idea came into his head that he might

The "Call of the Wild."

"The 'Call of the Wild' is strong with "great works of fiction" has been made, or in some men," said a member of the nouncements. Nor are we inclined to com- Philadelphia Club the other day. "I have pare the relative values of the books, as a most gnawing desire right at this mojust now is the immense amount of opti- ing and get into 'the strenuous life' over mism that these 6,600,000 books have scat- there. And I have heard a dozen men tered throughout the land. That is approxi- express the same wish in a sort of whismately what they add up to. And if we per with a far-away look in their eyes. reckon three readers to each book, and then We take out our 'call' in going on aunote that almost without exception the tone | nual hunting trips, but how can that of the books is cheerful, or idealistic, or of | compare with being in the midst of a the "hard-tussle-but-end-well" variety, we warlike scene where men are the game must stand, not aghast, but strongly im- that is hunted. I envy Dick Davis, John ressed with the fact that some twenty Fox, Marion Wright and the rest of those million readers have assimilated at least lucky war correspondents with my whole

"The story of the disappearance of Lafcadio Hearne, the writer whose new book of Japanese fairy tales is soon to appear in this country, does not astonish any torian of literature or civilization will trace one who knows him, and he is well known with much pleasure and ingenuity the prog- in Philadelphia. Every now and then the Bohemian in him gets the best of him bats of optimism and pessimism. But of and he simply disappears. It is the 'Call the two-and we have to choose one view of the Wild.' No ties are too sacred for of things-we are inclined to cast the vote him to break, and he is over sixty now. decidedly for optimism. Pessimism, like the At one time he drifted to Japan and marpoor, is always about us. We do not, in ried a Japanese woman. That was where choosing optimism, champion sugar-and- I first met him. His father was an Irishman of good birth and his mother a Greek. and-saucer comedy, the romantic novel as When he was a lad he was sent to Mayour best forms of literature, or even the nooth College, in England, but disappeared and lived a sort of gypsy life for years."

Atlantic. and a liberal supply of fiction, of which the | den lies, it may be justly claimed, in the books that are left unread. I mean those and to obtain which he went without his we enjoy the confirmation that the stories | dinner; books on whose backs his eyes have

Indianapolis Technical Institute Will Be Open for Students in September

Six Arsenal Buildings in Fine Condition Will Serve Admirably for School Purposes...Plans of the Directors for the Trades and Technical

Divisions...Girls to Have a Department

begun to take the shape of an actuality, and the work has been taken up in earnest. The only thing, however, that the directors their living, by thoroughly teaching them

It is already assured that the proposed department will have a large endowment, though the benefactor does not wish his name given to the public. The sum which and just, there seems to be no doubt that low with endowments when the proper time annex system. It is now proposed to have | workers can be taken. This does not inalong East Tenth street, reserved for the sorts of trades, there should be a place for much to do in influencing the board of directors to take the step in forming a woman's department, and before long the course of study the women will take will

be thoroughly mapped out. It has been definitely decided by the authorities of the school that it will open Sept. 14. Many have thought that it would be impossible to get the school in working order by that time, but because of the buildings that were formerly used by the government when the place was occupied by the arsenal, this will be feasible. It was a nical Institute when they came to investigate the buildings which it was thought would amount to nothing. Every one of them was found to be in perfect condition, all attached to repairing them. It will, however, put the institution to considerable expense to get them in readiness for school purposes, but the structures themselves could hardly be in better order and were found to be just what was wanted by the

The buildings that are now on the old arsenal grounds are six. The main structure rest, is built of pressed brick. It is almost like a new building, for the government will be used for the machine department. instructors for it. In this building will be taught the machinist's trade, which is seldom given as a part of the course in trade schools. The one connected with this institution will be one of the few in the

The building that was formerly used as the artillery hall is also in excellent condition and will be an admirable place for the teaching of building trades on account of the large floor space which is to be had. Then there is the new power house on the grounds, which was erected only a few said: years before the place was sold and which cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000. This, of course, will be very necessary for a school of this kind, because electrical ing to pieces what the others have built. power will be one of the chief essentials The building at present is not fitted up with machinery, but contracts have already been let for putting in the power. When this is completed the place will be thoroughly

What was formerly used as the stable laboratory. This stable is a large structure stories high. The barracks, which is located near the stable, will also be converted into a chemical laboratory, as two buildings devoted to this use will be neces-

has been definitely decided that | be no trouble experienced in changing the | will be for graduates of high schools, acadto women. When the school was residences on the grounds, which were ments is to provide young men who have

auditorium situated near the center of the grounds and of sufficient capacity to hold large number of people. Another, it is known, will be used as a library, and it will be constructed according to the latest and most approved plans. The other new buildings will be used in the school department matter; lately, however, the discussion has and will be occupied by the students learn-

necessary, when the school opens, to begin with just one-half of the subjects which will eventually be taught. Altogether, the various trades that will be learned at the institution will number eighteen, but next winter only nine of them will be taken up and these will include only the building trades. To complete the course in this work will take ten months, which are divided into five months' school years. The trades will be taught the boys in a thor-

As an illustration of how these trades will be taught, the course which will be clude the science of electricity, but it teaches the students how to run wires, put in covers thirty subjects and begins by having having him setting telephones. The second part is divided into eleven subjects and is for putting in burglar alarms. third is electric gas lighting, which has nine subjects, and the fourth is electric wiring and lighting; the last has thirty-three subwill also be a post-graduate course conducted by the institute and students in all Prof. Stanley Coulter, of Purdue University, has been chosen to the office of position. One of the unique features of the great surprise to the directors of the Tech- be no charity students in this school, that only be loaned to the students getting

> will be no humiliation felt by any of The Rev. S. C. Dickey, president of the Technical Institute, was seen last night in his apartments at the Blacherne. He was asked by the interviewer what would ing his progress was slow and he often be the effect of such a school as the Tech-

the student pays it back the scholarship

will again be used for another poor boy.

the students on an equal footing and there

This will also have a tendency to put all

thorough investigation of the subject by traveling and visiting quite a number of trade schools. I can say that such schools will have no effect whatever on trade unions and, in fact, the unions are for the most part heartily in favor of them.' "What becomes of the different things that are made in such a school?" asked the

"The school," said Mr. Dickey, "will purchase all of its own materials to be used in the various shops, and whatever is built by the senior students is torn down by those in the junior class. Mr. Dickey was asked if it were not ar

advantage to the younger students to tear down the work of their seniors and if it did not give them an insight into the construction of the different things made, and he "Yes: it is a great advantage, and in

structors in other trade schools say that students learn considerable in simply tear-

"How is the school to be managed?"

"This school in Indianapolis," was the

are of such a substantial sort and well the Boston, Armour and Lewis Technical built. There are also two very handsome institutes. The purpose of the trade departformerly used by the army officers who had a bent for mechanics the opportunity of

Mr. Dickey was asked if there was any particular system to be taught in this school such as the "Auchmuty" system, which is

it is fairly probable that the system of instruction adopted by the Indianapolis trade department will be that which you have named. Under this system a course of instruction is arranged by which both the practical and theoretical branches of principles that underlie the practical are also taught. In the training of young men for the handicrafts the combination of the suited to modern conditions; the schools to give the young man a knowledge of how to use his tools, how to do the work and the theory of the trade, and the workshop

to give him experience, facility and speed "For each trade taught at the school, prepared which outlines in detail what work

the student is required to go through and

the order in which the work is to be per-

he is advanced to tasks that are more diffi-

familiar with the various branches of the A PRACTICAL INSTITUTION.

"Your aim, of course, is to make the work as thoroughly practical as possible?" "The work given the students will be thoroughly practical; there is no doubt of that. The scientific instruction imparts fully prepared lectures, manuals, diagrams teach, will be employed to act as instructors, and each student will receive indi vidual care and attention. Careful explanation will be made of every step of the course, and the instructors will be found constantly among the students.

greater advantage in learning a trade under the present trade school system than under the old way of going into a shop as an apprentice to learn it. "A comparison between the present day the trade school system," he said, "clearly shows the advantage which the latter offers young men. In former times a young man was employed simply to make himself useful about the shop, and neither the master nor the workmen had the time to give him the instructions he should have received. What knowledge he obtained the lad himself acquired by observation, and as a result of the neglect of proper teachgained a limited knowledge of the trade. In the coming technical school every enin the trade he is learning, and by reason of the care that is devoted to his instruction, in a very short time he understands how to use his tools and is capable of do-

ing work that makes him of value to his "Is there to be a night school connected with the institution?' "It is planned," said Mr. Dickey, "to have both day and evening classes. The day classes, which, as they are open to the beginners as well as to those who are working at a trade, will make it possible for young men who reside in distant localities to obtain the advantage of the school. The experience of trade schools is to the effect that the student can complete, by attendance upon day classes, a course of study in one-third the time which he can by attendance upon evening classes."

"What will be the requirements of student entering this institution? "The only requirement of the student entering the trade department will be that of good moral character, an ability to read and write, and a written statement of his purpose to be obedient to the rules of the institution and diligent in acquiring the trade he is to learn.

"Another thing that I want to impress upon the people of Indianapolis, and especially those who live near where the institute is to be located," concluded Mr. Dickey, "is that we will have no dormitories and consequently the students will have to find places to sleep. As many of the students will not have a great amount of money it will be necessary for them to find boarding places that are reasonable as to price. We want every one who has room to take some of these boys at as reasonable a rate as possible, and in this way

Mills Alden, author of "God in His World," philosophy. On the other hand, the late occupied the editorial chair of the magazine | more than \$250,000. He left a legacy of \$25,for about thirty-five years. Before going to | 000 to Evelyn Beatrice Hall, "in token of editorials for the New York Evening Post | and literary advice, without which I should

> Mr. Herbert Spencer's autobiography will appear in May. He calls it "a natural history of myself," which will certainly prove to be a misnomer. The only natural history which any man ever wrote of himself was "Rousseau's Confessions," and that was not truthful enough from beginning to end to deserve such a title. But Mr. Spencer's autobiography will be interesting and valuable even if it is not scientifically true and exhaustive, and it will be looked for with unusual interest.

Miss Hildegarde Hawthorne, whose new book, "A Country Interlude," is published this spring is a daughter of Julian Hawthorne and a granddaughter of for the Mediterranean this month and ex- Nathaniel Hawtherne. She was taken abroad as a baby and lived in England and on the continent for a dozen or more years. Since then, she has led a more or less wandering existence, mostly entitled "The Alternate Sex, or the Female | in America, but spending two years in the Intellect in Man and the Masculine in Island of Jamacia and another year in France and Italy. Miss Hwthorne is now living at Yonkers on the Hudson, and the scene of her story is laid at a country place on this river. She has previously been known through her short stories and

the leading magazines. If Japan has not always been discriminating in its tastes for American and English literature, it at least is far ahead period of the struggle between Gregory | March Critic is to be believed. He says, until recent years at least, novel writing of February was 42 degrees. In January has not been looked upon as a respectable profession in Japan; that the public would not permit it to be called "gentlestate of preservation, have been found in man's work," and that it was regarded the book stores and second-hand stores of "an unpardonable diversion of unworthy towns in Indian Territory. The latest re- prodigies." Herein, it must be believed, ported is a second edition of Dean Swift's is to be found one of the chief elements "Tale of a Tub," printed in Dublin in 1769. of Japan's strength and greatness. Strong From St. Moritz comes word that Hall and able-bodied men have not been permitted to write "best sellers" and still be called gentlemen; nor gentle girls to recover from nervous breakdown, is de- write \$1.50 shockers, and still be called

> Of hand-made paper, deckle-edge, And clothed in crushed Levant, am I, A numbered copy, with a pledge That twenty-five's the world's supply; Yet high upon the shelf I pine, Day in, day out, and year by year, Untouched by him who calls me "mine,"

Like any common Elzevir. But he, in rusty parchment clad, A battered vagrant, foxed and flea'd, Has all to make him proud and glad, For him there's camaraderie, The easy chair, the glowing log, While I must sleep, content to be



Former Artillery Hall, to be Used for Building Trades Department

Official Closing of Winter Leads to Talk About Weather

Though the Season Was Unv ually Cold There Is No Reason to Think Climate is Changing ... A Glacial Theory

and February shall constitute the three spells before or after this they are not counted in as part of the winter, but only as extremely cold days in either spring or fall. This last winter has been one of the coldest that the local weather bureau has No one who has had to go out of doors much this winter but has realized that it has been very cold for three months, but but it has been officially cold, and there is a decided difference between mere personal impressions and official figures in the matter of the weather. It is remarkable when the two are sometimes compared what a 16 below zero and practically stayed there

As an instance of this, the other morning the city was shivering with an arctic from the northwest and was blowing what cold there was across town at a forty-mile clip, pressing it against the chilly faces and through every crack and barrier of warm clothing, made it seem fifteen degrees colder than it really was. There have been many such days during the last official figures from the weather man to

The weather bureau has been established thirty-three years, and there is on record 23.8, which made a difference of two-tenths of a degree. That was all that kept this winter from being a record breaker, and as it is it will give the "oldest inhabitants" old weather prophets have been reciting tales of the cold and hardships that occurred in the winter of 1885-86 ever since that year, and because several of the prewhole part of the country was getting last winter months, which started along in November, exploded this idea, and those who predicted the change of climate had to look for excuses for the return of the

Another thing that made this winter so disagreeable was that it was very stormy greater part of the time. There is an old saying that is familiar to everyone that on whichever day of the month the first snow falls there will be that number during the winter. Just the exact number that was to occur this winter is rather confusing from the fact that each one who made a prediction has a different number, and on inquiry among many of the old inhabitants t was found that the snowfalls would be between twenty-five and thirty-nine. Now the question is, what constitutes a snowfall? Is it every time a few flakes fall from the sky, or does it take a whole day of snowing to make one snowfall?

WHAT A SNOWFALL IS. W. T. Blythe, who has charge of the local weather bureau, when asked how less when it melts it will be equal to oneso practically a snowstorm that lasts twenty-four hours is looked upon as a snowfall by the government. There were twentyfour snows last winter that the government recognized as snowfalls, which is an exceedingly large number for this locality. And the falls of snow altogether, counting traces which the average person would think was a snowstorm, were thirty-eight, so the man who prophesied thirty-nine came very near getting it right.

December of last year was an exception

from the fact that it was colder than that

month generally is. The mean temperature for December last winter was 24.2 degrees. which is considerably below the normal average, and therefore it was the coldest December that the weather bureau has any record of. The same month in the winter of 1885 was much warmer, the mean temperature being 32.2. This winter's December average was five degrees lower than that of the same month in the preceding year, 1902, which was on the whole a rather mild winter. The warmest December was in 1889, which was a comparatively warm wifiter. The mean temperature for that month during that year was 46.8. January, which is always known as the coldest month of the year because it is in the middle of winter, had an average temperature of 22 degrees. This, however, was not the coldest January that has been known, for it had one predecessor which holds the record. In 1893 the mean temperature for January was 17.9, which is the coldest month on record. In 1875 the average temperature of this month was lower Eskimo. He further said: than during last winter. That year the mean temperature was 19.8. A year ago the mean temperature came up to 26.8. In thirty-three years there have been eighteen Januaries where the temperature has ranged between an average of 22 to 28 degrees. This is a lower temperature than any other winter month has for there have | only been fifteen Februaries in which the range of temperature was between 20 and 29, and of this same month there were seventeen where the average was between 30 and 39. In 1882 the average temperature there have only been twelve in thirty-three years where the mean has ranged between 30 and 38 degrees. In the month of December the records show warmer weather and there have been twelve Decembers where the mean temperature was between 24 and 29, while there have been sixteen with an average temperature between 31 and 39.

FEBRUARY'S TEMPERATURE. February, for the first three weeks, was going ahead steadily as a record-breaker. Then three warm days occurred. They were not summer days by any means, but they were warm compared to what had been. These days were the 21st, 22d and 23d, which brought the mean temperature for the month up again toward average figures. After that came another cold wave, so that February averaged very well | the climate of twenty-five or fifty years with the other winter months. The mean | before and in comparing the unusual contemperature was 25 degrees, so it did not ditions of long ago with the average of the turn out an abnormally cold month, al- present they were deceived. though it was cold. weather bureau men, that it was prac-

HE official closing of winter has | the temperature ranging several degrees taken place. It occurred on the below zero there would be an interruption 1st of March. There may be other last winter, however, was one continual cold days during this month, and steady pull, but the only day that the temthe temperature has not only seemed cold, and thus make the mercury fall a degree

As far as cold days are concerned, several during previous winters have been consid-An instance of this was on Sunday, Jan. 15, 1893. The temperature on that day reached natural gas was used exclusively, but it was not equal to the occasion on that day. to dismiss their congregations on account of not having enough heat to warm the buildings, and there was great suffering among people of all classes. That winter, as a whole, however, was a comparatively warm one, and that spell of weather, which came in January, was the only one of any consequence during the whole winter. There have been several other times in the last few years when the thermometer went to 10 and 14 degrees, but did not remain there more than a day. In fact, it seems that it is during the mild winters when these extremely cold days occur, but warmer weather generally follows.

DR. CLARK'S THEORY. An interesting theory has been advanced in the last few weeks by Dr. John Mason Clark, paleontologist for the State of New York, who contends that we are yet in the glacial period, and that we can expect such relapses into cold weather as we have just

experienced almost any winter. He says, "Man is still living in the glacial period. The prevalent idea that the ice age was a remotely distant epoch in the earth's history, that it disappeared long ago and was followed by changes which tremendously modified the face of nature in the latitudes of this country, is a very imperfect one. "We are not exactly living about the edge of an ice cap, but we are certainly living within the sphere of influence of the diminished remains of the ancient glacial sheet. "To-day from Greenland to New York parbor eastern America is in the grip of the ice as never before during the memory the living. Last summer was cold an so was the summer before. It is natural that apprehension should be often expressed that the climate of these latitudes s actually changing for the worse, but it is probably true that this is the ordinary and

normal oscillation in temperature periods which accompanies the tapering-off of a onger-continued period of refrigeration, "Northern latitudes during the culmination of the last ice age were sheeted for thousands of years, and it takes long to fface such a condition. Though, with the breaking-up of the ice sheet and the withdrawal and disappearance of the local glaciers resultant floods and concomitant changes in the elevation of the land produced the effect so profound as to actually give birth to our present topography, yet we are to-day in the midst of these pro

"The ice age prevails and the northern ice cap has not reached its minimum. There is plenty of evidence that glacial man still exists in New York. In a thousand years or so Dr. Clark thinks that it ought be perceptibly warmer here both in winter and summer. Another interesting theory of the paleontologist is that if we had a series of volcanic eruptions such as occurred in the West Indies two years ago one effect of them would be to warm the atmosphere considerably. "When Pelee and La Soufriere went off a coup of years ago," he said, "a remarkable feature of their discharge, especially at Pelee was the outpouring of tremendous quantitties of asphyxiating gases, chiefly carbondioxid. It was this that caused the terrific destruction of life. Such discharges of carbon-dioxid into the earth's atmosphere help to make the earth warmer and if there should come soon a season of general hundredth of an inch of rain. To get this volcanic activity throughout the earth we sary. The architect is now drawing up the reply, "is to have two departments-the one many people will have the opportunity to it generally take a whole day of snowing, might reasonably look for a change in climate not only warmer but more equable. A series of volcanic cataclysms may therefore warm up the climate at any time, but otherwise we can hardly expect to get perpetually warm or to escape the prob-

ability of more such winters as this for a

good while yet." THOMAS JEFFERSON'S MISTAKE. Mr. Blythe, of the local weather bureau, is very skeptical about the causes of cold winters and says that they are only natural and that there are no atmospheric changes taking place, neither does he put any faith in the glacial period theory that is expounded by Dr. Clark. Mr. Blythe thinks that it is all in the natural course of things, and he says the causes of different changes in weather are so obscure that it is a very difficult matter to tell just what they come from. When asked if there was anything in the claim that is often made that the climate is changing he said there was not, and that we now have the same old climate we have always had. He contends that if we have two very warm summers and winters together people begin to think that the climate is getting warmer. and if the weather remains cold, as it was last summer and this winter, they immediately come to the conclusion that the climate is getting colder and that it will not be many years until we will be all dressed in bear skins and living in fee like the

"The weather bureau combats the theory that the climate is changing, although it is a very popular fallacy and has been so for more than a century. As long ago as Thomas Jefferson's time this belief was popular, and in regard to it Mr. Jefferson said: 'A change of climate is taking place very preceptibly. Both heat and cold are becoming more moderate within the memory of even the middle-aged, snows are less frequent and less deep. They do not often lie below the mountains more than one or two days and very rarely a week. The snows are remembered to have been formerly frequent, deep and of long con-

tinuance. "The elderly inform me, continued Mr. Jefferson, 'that the earth used to be covered with snow about three months in the year.

"Three or four years ago," continued Mr. Blythe, "after having the above question investigated with reference to all parts of the globe where records are kept, and particularly to the statement of Mr. Jefferson, which I just quoted relative to the climate of Virginia, the Weather Bureau authorized a statement of which I will read a part; Jefferson and his neighbors were mistaken, Never during the period of authentic history has snow covered the ground in Virginia three months per year three years in succession. The old inhabitants of Jefferson's time were like those of to-daythey remember only the abnormalities of

"This is the way it is at the present The difference between last winter and time," continued Mr. Bylthe, "there is the other cold winters was, so say the positively no change taking place in the climate, and as I said before we are havtically one long cold wave. Heretofore, ing the same old climate that our grandwhile there would be one or two days with | fathers and their ancestors enjoyed."

The Books We Read.

are like those boarding houses which land-

ladies advertise as "all one family"-to be

avoided by any boarder who can climb a

tree. Mr. Bliss Perry in a recent essay

on the analogy of boarding houses to maga-

zines has said that as the landlady of the

Atlantic Monthly he does not particularly

ike some of the dishes he serves. He

any caterer and mentions a number of tal-

ented editors who in bringing contributors

and readers together suppress their private

tastes. He might have added that the re-

lation of caterer to green grocer, of editor

to contributor, is apt to be cold-blooded

And it is well known to all who have read

and boarded that geniality is injurious alike

to editors and landladies, and that taking

their work as a whole it needs more crit-

cism than it receives. They lie becalmed

on the habits of their majority, and they

need a blast from the discontented to make

Editors complain of abusive letters and

unreasonable demands. Landladies tell you

of vipers nourished at a table that, if any-

thing, is far too good. For all that, the

the friend of man. Boarding up and down

the world this many a year, worn to the

bone with table talk, a veteran of countless

tious meals, we have learned that the com-

fort of the many hangs on the fury of the

few. The wrath of the party in the third

floor front, hideous though it be, tempers

the wind to the shorn lamb in the back

parlor. The malcontent shakes his fist and

the beds of the meek are made in the

morning. Towels and food and heat are

no mere products of the arts of peace. They

are wrung by the fears of insurrection. It

is the voice of Rienzi in his bathrobe, the

oratory of some hallroom Hampden, that

brings these things to pass. So it is with

printed matter, whether it be a magazine

or a dictionary of biography. It is absurd

to say an editor knows his business. Edi-

tors, landladies and kings never know their

iness, but the Wat Tyler of criticism

elps them to learn. That is the main

point in the boarding-house analogy and

Mr Perry left it out. Editors are far too

sheltered as a class. Only a small fraction

of the large volume of instructive denun-

ciation and ridicule ever reaches them. An

as far as it goes. Time and again on

talking with editors you find them strange-

ly unconscious of opprobrium. With cer-

tain editors it is unsafe to take it for

granted that they know what the joke is

against themselves. They would not even

wink at a brother augur. The critics of

mest grumbler is the ally of progress and

Boston Transcript. In the current number of the Bookman appears a list of twenty-six works of fiction and each one of them has rounded the hundred-thousand stake in the race for the largest circulation. Some of them are in the 400,000 class, and "David Harum" heads we have all become perfectly familiar with. even if we have not read the books, from the advertising pages preceding the reading reproductions of their covers, we have been write." impressed with the remarkable qualities of

the books "as advertised." We have no intention of booming the truth that it pays to advertise, though Philadelphia Press. doubtless some of the popularity of these at least fostered, by their attractive anrepresenting religious, everyday, or romantic themes. What strikes us prominently some optimistic attitudes of mind from these | soul. creations of contemporary American au-

Optimism has been naturally a very strong motive force in the world. A hisress of things as resulting from the comwater literature, summer reading, the cupmost helpful, if the public can assimilate more serious literary pabulum. But, being optimistic, we are encouraged at this enormous output of optimistic fiction. It is distinetly needed, or it would not be bought and consumed. Some time ago we sided strongly with the

Ubrarians that believe in the open shelves public may make unrestricted use. These six million copies or more mentioned above are more proof that fiction is needed; it may be because the every-day life is so hard, or miserable, or because in our cheerful belief that "it's all coming out right"

Of course, we recognize the dangers of a most lovingly, until he has perhaps forgetfar more vital and serious themes in life when he would have sold them; they are a founded the New York Times one year aftmight be the subjects of thought of these part of his youth. In dreams he turns to erward. He was succeeded by Dr. Alfred has been valued at something slightly over

Mr. Stephen's great work were often utter-

rlept. No public-spirited citizen should ever | "He worked his way in a Lowestoft coal-

ment to go to Korea and see the fight-

The Unread Books.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, in the March

The only knowledge that involves no burwhich remain undisturbed, long and per-Newspaperdom. haps forever, on a student's bookshelves; books for which he possibly economized. rested a thousand times, tenderly and alday-dreaming optimism, but that is not the ten the very language in which they are history. Harper's Magazine has had but with the "relations between chemical conkind that the American public gathers written. He has never read them, yet dur- three editors since its inception in 1850. The stitution and physical properties." from its reading. We recognize also that | ing these years there has never been a day | first editor was Henry J. Raymond, who

collier bound for Bangkok, reading Whyte necessary plans, and he says that there will technical, the other trade. The technical help the institution in its work." he knows what a differential equation is; reading omnivorously as sailors read, and | "how happy could be be with either." He | and "A Study of Death." Mr. Alden has | Henry Seton Marriman left a fortune of highway. In his first voyage as an officer on him in their youth but once, and then the Harpers he had taught, and had written my gratitude for her continued assistance stances, who knows but one of them might time as a boy in charge of a dingy. He have been his, but they have grown old the Harpers as editor of their Pictorial ing by my pen." apart from him; still for him they retain | History of the Civil War and later was delightful but now half-forgotten poet Praed known names are included, those titles that ers and caravans on the Congo. His health meets his "Belle of the Ball" in later years: ly, said to Mr. Alden, then a young man of twenty-six: "For in my heart's most secret cell There had been many other lodgers And she was not the ballroom's belle

But only Mrs. Something Rogers." "I think I could help you do it." So in my case, my neighbors at the Harhelped so efficiently that six years later he vard observatory have solved the differential equations; my other neighbors, the was made editor of Harper's Magazine. It priests, have read-let us hope-the Heis interesting to record that the first manuscript he read in his new capacity was a brew psalms; but I live to ponder on the short story by Louise Chandler Moulton.

The Last Page.

It is "womanlike." we know. Yet when we pick up a book We read but a page or so, Then we take a quiet look At the last page-at the end-And we fear no wild alarms That the subtle plot may send If "he" has "her" in his arms.

books unread.

Then we start to read again; Chuckle at the hero's wees, At his struggles all in vain; Laugh because he never knows That the damsel young and fair, Who his vows of love has spurned, Will be meekly waiting there

When the final page is turned. Would be rendered flat and spolled; All his schemes, so well begun, Would be very tamely foiled Knew the truth his heart to launt: What the heroine would do.

How she'd tell him to "Avaunt!"

Often when the hero seems Just about to leave the race-Thinks his hopes are idle dreams, And the odds too great to face; Or the heroine-when she Wanders 'round, full of despair-We turn to the end, and see How it winds up, happy, there.

Father's rage, or mother's scorn:

Scheming, shrewd adventuress; Make the hero all forlorn, And it's ticklish, you'll confess, But we inwardly advise: 'Cheer up! This will soon be past!" For the last page makes us wise-There he murmurs: "Mine at last!"

-W. D. Nesbit, in Chicago Tribune. Harper's Three Editors.

The statement frequently appears in the press that George William Curtis was editor | For a man of his venerable years to be "Editor's Easy Chair." As a matter of which his fame is associated that it deals millions of readers; but to offset that lack them; in dreams he reads Hebrew again: H. Guernsey, and Dr. Guernsey by Henry \$90,000. So much for the "returns" of

and Times. He was first associated with never have been able to have made a livoffered an editorial position on the Weekly. Mr. Fletcher Harper, who edited the Week-"Do you think you could manage the Weekly?" And Mr. Alden replied with modesty and tact:

Literary Notes.

Miss Mary Johnston, author of "Audrey" and "To Have and To Hold," plans to sail pects to spend a year or more in Sicily. The last book of the late Charles Godfrey Leland is coming out in London. It is Woman.

Mr. W. Clark Russell's new novel, "Abandoned," has a curious plot. It turns upon the aversion which a sea captain's wife conceives toward her husband on the very day poems which have appeared in many of of their marriage,

Ancient MSS, are still to be found. The archivist of Montecassino has just discovered in that famous abbey a parchment containing historical matter of importance hitherto unknown, and bearing upon the VII and Henry IV.

Within the last few years a number of valuable books, most of them in a fair Caine, who fled to the Riviera recently to cidedly better. The novelist, however, is ladies. not yet up to doing any literary work, and the appearance of his new novel, "The Prodigal Son," is likely to be delayed for

quite a while. Dr. Samuel Smiles, the author of "Self Help" and kindred works, is now very old, but he maintains his interest in literature. still active is indeed remarkable. In his ninety-second year, he is about to publish a new book so far removed from those with-

The estate of the late Herbert Spencer

The Jealous Reprint.

He's not for show, he's kept to read. An item in a catalogue,